



REVIEWS

BOOKS

Reviewed by Ruth Parnell

THE AMBUSHED GRAND JURY by Wes McKinley and Caron Balkany

The Apex Press, USA, 2004
ISBN 1-891843-28-1 (285pp tpb)
Availability: Council on International and Public Affairs, <http://www.cipa-apex.org>

The US defence contractor Rockwell International committed a string of environmental crimes at its nuclear weapons plant at Rocky Flats, just 16 miles from Colorado, from the time it was set up in 1953. After persistent accidents and safety problems, the plutonium incinerator was shut down in October 1988—but on three nights in December, the FBI took infrared videos from the air of the incinerator operating in secret in the middle of the night.

The FBI raided the plant on 6 June 1989 and 10 days later two female chemical operators who worked in the incinerator building went to the FBI and blew the whistle, for better and worse. Six weeks later, a Grand Jury was impanelled and after a number of hearings was finally discharged in March 1992. At that time, the Justice Department announced a plea bargain with RI and then sealed the Grand Jury's report, thus covering up key evidence and protecting not just the contractor but the Department of Energy and the Department of Justice. Any Grand Jurors who went public would be breaking their secrecy oaths.

However, one of the Grand Jurors, Wes McKinley, a rancher and former physics teacher, was the foreman and decided to go public soon after. At last, he's co-written this book with civil rights lawyer Caron

Balkany, and along with other activists they're part of a citizens' investigation team calling for a Citizens' Grand Jury Indictment (www.Ambushedgrandjury.com) and an end to the cover-up. And now that the government has plans to make part of Rocky Flats into a recreation area, there is a new urgency to get the government to admit to its mistakes, as the ground and waterways are heavily contaminated with plutonium and other toxic nuclear waste.

The shocking but true story behind *The Ambushed Grand Jury*, which has parallels with the Karen Silkwood case, is not widely known but should be. The authors encourage concerned citizens to make a stand against government deceit and for the truth.

THE CRUCIFIXION OF TRUTH by Tony Bushby

Joshua Books, Australia, 2005
ISBN 0-9751594-7-X (320pp tpb)
Availability: NEXUS offices, or Joshua Books, <http://www.joshuabooks.com>

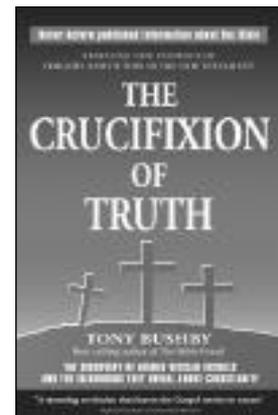
Evidence confirming the fabrication of the New Testament records can be found in scrolls hidden in the Vatican's Secret Archive, as Tony Bushby discovered in the course of doing research for his new book.

Here he exposes what he sees are the lies upon which the early Christian faith was founded—and which have been expanded upon by Church leaders and foisted on willing believers ever since. This book follows on from *The Bible Fraud* (see 8/06), where he explained that the Jesus Christ we know from the New Testament is a composite of two individuals: the Druid king Yesu Cunobeline and his brother Judas Khrestus, a warrior who developed a following in Galilee, Palestine. Bushby argues that the

Jesus Christ figure was a synthesis of ancient mythical figures, decided upon at the first Council of Nicaea in 325. The canonical Gospels were pieced together at this Council, too, from Druidic texts, pagan myths and fanciful writings of early rabble-rousing presbyters—although they were added to and altered in subsequent centuries.

Drawing on ancient and scholarly sources, Bushby makes it clear that core Roman Catholic teachings concerning the so-called virgin birth, the transfiguration, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension are not based in reality but on earlier pagan mythologies. Even the Book of Revelation is a plagiarisation of the 500 BC writings known as *The Mysteries of Osiris and Isis*, by the Sibyl of Cumae, who was the highly regarded Oracle of the Romans. Such dark ecclesiastical deceptions, Bushby asserts, have been perpetrated by those in the know throughout the history of the Roman Catholic Church.

His book will be seen as heresy by anyone who is not prepared to question the dogmas and doctrines of the Catholic religion.



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GEMATRIA: The Numbers of Infinity by Marke Pawson

Green Magic, UK, 2004

ISBN 0-9547-2300-7 (180pp tpb)

Availability: **UK**—Green Magic,

<http://www.greenmagicpublishing.com>;

Australia—Banyan Tree Book Distributors,
tel (07) 3279 1877

The secret to an "all-inclusive theory" that explains all perceived phenomena can be found in the science of the gematria as revealed in the Hebrew text of the Torah, says Marke Pawson in this remarkable study. The letters of the Hebrew AlephBayt, or alphabet, can also be represented by numbers, with the result that any Hebrew word or phrase has a numerical value.

Thus the ancient scribes hid important clues to knowledge about the physical and hidden universe in this sacred text, but they also added another five letters ("finals") to the Hebrew alphabet to make twenty-seven. Pawson says the great breakthrough in understanding why they did this came with the discovery in 1981 by Stan Tenen of the Meru Foundation: that this number corresponds with the number of points of intersection of a 2 x 2 x 2 cube of eight cubic modules, and that each of the letters can be represented by a number at each of these 27 points. This ability gives rise to three-dimensional structures within the cube system. Pawson says it's a system in which the letters represent numbers and energies which are combined in words and phrases, and these in turn are built into 3D patterns expressed in forms with crystalline, musical and geometric proportions. So, letters and numbers are energetic tools in the creative process and Pawson provides many stunning examples that cover occult knowledge, some

of it going back to ancient Egypt.

To follow Pawson's thesis in any detail, the reader needs to be familiar with Hebrew or have a Hebrew letter and number chart handy and be conversant with basic mathematics and geometry. It's worth taking the time, for new vistas of knowledge await.

THE REINCARNATION OF EDGAR CAYCE? Interdimensional Communication & Global Transformation

by Wynn Free with David Wilcock

North Atlantic Books/Frog Ltd, USA, 2004

ISBN 1-58394-083-9 (417pp tpb)

Availability: North Atlantic Books,

<http://www.northatlanticbooks.com>

America's most famous psychic, Edgar Cayce, announced before his death in 1945 that he would return in 1998. When scientific researcher and psychic channeller David Wilcock (born in 1973) moved to Virginia Beach (where Cayce lived) in 1997, he became aware of his uncanny physical resemblance to the "Sleeping Prophet" and through dreams and information channelled by a group soul called Ra he received confirmation that he *is* the reincarnation of Cayce! On Ra's advice, he went public with this in 1998, although the Cayce organisation ARE has not acknowledged Wilcock's claims. Yet Cayce believed he was once a priest called Ra-Ta in Egypt in 10,500 BC who communicated with this same Ra entity.

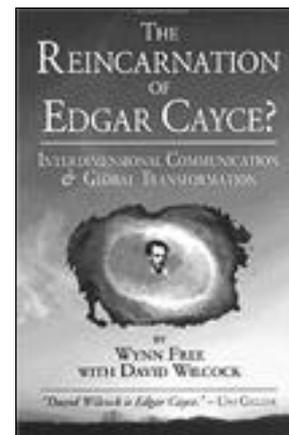
In this book about David Wilcock, Wynn Free includes his own search to get to the bottom of the mystery. He is open about his initial scepticism, but from the evidence he gathered he concludes the similarities with Cayce are overwhelming—not just the life

threads in common but the soul purpose.

Like Cayce, Wilcock is not into self-aggrandisement but his mission differs from Cayce's in that his focus is less on personal readings and more on messages that will assist humanity's evolution and "ascension". This is a large-scale event that Ra says to expect by October 2011 ahead of a dimensional shift in 2012 when our planet moves into direct alignment with galactic centre.

In the lead-up, human consciousness has the capacity for enormous expansion, charged up by an outpouring of "fourth density" energies with their "qualities of unconditional love". The entire solar system is experiencing measurable massive changes, as science confirms, and Ra's explanation is that this is because we're moving into a denser part of the galaxy.

There are some interesting asides into torsion field and pyramid power research in this book, but the main message is to banish fear and let love in. Visit Wilcock's website, www.ascension2000.com, for more insights.





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THE MIDNIGHT SUN: The Death and Rebirth of God in Ancient Egypt by Alan F. Alford

Eridu Books, UK, 2004
ISBN 0-9527994-3-X (443pp tpb)
Availability: Eridu Books, website
<http://www.eridu.co.uk>

In this sequel to his 2003 book *Pyramid of Secrets* (reviewed in 10/05), Alan Alford expands on his thesis that the creation myth, not a solar cult, was at the core of Egyptian beliefs. He calls on Egyptologists to reassess their assumptions about the ancient religion as well as the architecture.

He concludes that the pyramid was a symbol of creation coming into being, and as such had to be built on a huge scale and very precisely so as to imitate the vast life-span of the cosmos. The temple, representing the final stage of the cosmic creation, was also built on a grandiose scale so that it might endure for millions of years. Intrinsic to the ancient Egyptians' belief system was that the mummified king had to be buried in the earth beneath the pyramid to maintain the connection with the creator god. Alford maintains that the purpose of ongoing rituals at the pyramids was to keep the king's soul circulating through the cosmos and prevent the cosmos from collapsing into chaos.

According to his research, including analysis of the Pyramid Texts, the mummified body of the Pharaoh Khufu (the king who is credited with building the Great Pyramid), had to have been buried beneath the massive structure in accordance with the creation cult beliefs. Following on from his analysis in *Secrets*, Alford broadens his case for why he thinks Khufu's mummy is entombed in the area surrounding the Grotto, originally a natural cave in the bedrock. A 10-foot-high

section of the Well Shaft that runs vertically upwards from the Grotto's entrance is curiously lined with small limestone blocks which may well conceal the tomb's entrance. The mummy's resting place may be close to a suggested water source that has caused the Grotto's ceiling to be damp.

Alford calls on the Egyptian authorities to test his hypothesis using ground-penetrating radar, but he needs more backing from Egyptologists and historians in support of his proposal. His fascinating book suggests there's much more still to be discovered about ancient Egypt.

LOST SCIENCE OF THE STONE AGE: Sacred Energy and the I Ching by Michael Poynder

Green Magic, UK, 2004
ISBN 0-9542-9639-7 (199pp 1/f tpb)
Availability: UK—Green Magic,
<http://www.greenmagicpublishing.com>;
Australia—Banyan Tree Book Distributors,
tel (07) 3279 1877

The spiral designs found on Neolithic standing stones, cairns and henges are more than mere decorations. They represent an understanding of subtle energies, particularly magnetic currents, that run through the Earth and connect with the Sun.

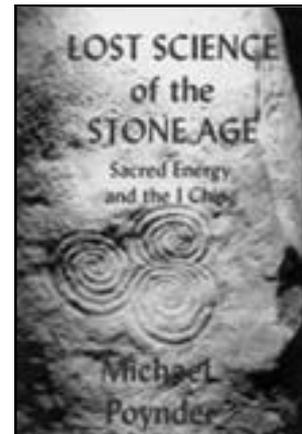
So it's no wonder that so many of the ancient religions started out as Sun-worshipping cults, says Michael Poynder in *Lost Science of the Stone Age*. He shows many examples of ancient Sun God discs that worked as calculators marking out the eight-fold wheel of the year with its two equinoxes, two solstices and four quarter-days. This knowledge was known throughout the ancient world, from Europe to as far away as

China, the Americas and Australia.

From his 30 years of study and field trips, Poynder concludes that the Neolithic sages understood unseen forces such as magnetic flow lines and underground water, and they had their monuments built to take advantage of these energy flows, often for healing purposes. Later Christian churches were also sited to make maximum use of the energies, the baptismal font usually placed over an intersection of underground water streams.

The ancient Chinese understood these energy flow lines and represented them in the *I Ching* with its 64 hexagrams, also corresponding to the 64 codons of the DNA. Poynder speculates that such knowledge may have allowed our ancestors to create "a light magnetic vehicle to accelerate through the time barrier...to come and go through the magnetic space-time continuum".

This is a profound book, richly illustrated with photos and diagrams that give us a glimpse into the occult aspects of Neolithic design and a lost ancient science.



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THE CHILDREN OF THE SUN: A Study of the Egyptian Settlement of the Pacific

by W. J. Perry, MA

Adventures Unlimited Press, USA, 2004

(first published by Methuen, 1923)

ISBN 1-931882-27-4 (551pp tpb)

Availability: **Europe**—Frontier Publishing,
website <http://www.fsf.nl>; **USA**—

Adventures Unlimited, website

<http://www.adventuresunlimitedpress.com>;

Australia/NZ/UK—NEXUS offices

The detailed research in Professor W. J. Perry's 1923 work, *The Children of the Sun*, is astounding, and here is a faithful reprint to bring it all home to the modern-day reader. Prof. Perry was of the belief that civilisation spread around the globe via transoceanic voyaging, and from his studies of the Pacific Ocean region it is clear there is abundant evidence for this notion. But from where did these voyages originate?

The likely candidates are the ancient Egyptian and Indian sun kingdoms, which sent their envoys throughout the Indonesian archipelago as well across the top of Australia and into the Pacific, all the way to the Americas. They seeded their culture from their megalithic architecture to their religious beliefs and economic pursuits in these far-flung islands and lands. Their influence can be traced to at least 1500 BC, but perhaps much, much earlier.

Professor Perry's purview covers the "culture sequences" of ancient North America, Oceania and Indonesia from their precursor civilisations in India and Egypt. The emphasis is on their common social organisations and totemic clan systems as well as on the exploitation and trading of precious

resources—especially gold, gemstones and workable metals—that underpinned the continuity and economic expansion of these cultures. This book is a continuation of Perry's earlier work, *The Megalithic Culture of Indonesia*. You can be assured that they don't write books like these anymore!

MILLENNIAL HOSPITALITY

Volume I, Volume II – The World We Knew, Volume III – The Road Home by Charles James Hall

© Charles James Hall, USA, 2002, 2003

ISBN 1-4033-77670-0 (473pp hc, vol. I);

1-4107-0508-0 (379pp hc, vol. II);

1-4107-3396-3 (341pp hc, vol. III)

Availability: Visit website

http://members.lycos.co.uk/Charles_Hall

While Charles James Hall presents his three-volume book as a work of fiction, told from the point of view of airman Charles Baker, this surely has to be to protect the classified nature of the experience he draws upon from when he worked as a USAF weather observer on Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada (not far from Area 51 and "Dreamland"), in the mid-1960s (in the days before satellite weather imaging).

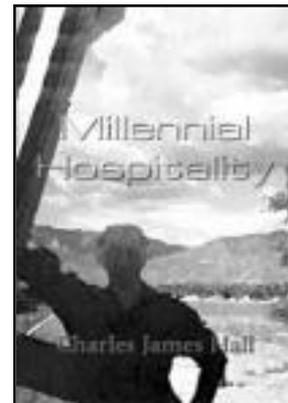
Hall is a physicist and information technology specialist who also does government contract work (he holds a "Secret" security clearance), and took a few years to write this trilogy and self-publish it in 2002–03.

Whether memoir or not, the story is attracting increasing attention in the international UFO research community. The testimony he's given in interviews since then, backed up by his personal credibility, is considered a valid contribution towards the push for official disclosure on UFOs.

The story, featuring dialogue as you'd expect to find in a sci-fi novel, revolves around a group of Tall White extraterrestrials based in the Mojave Wells and Indian Springs area of Nevada, supposedly with the full cooperation of the US military's top brass. Apparently the Pentagon has had a technology transfer deal with these ETs—code-named "Range Four Harry"—since the early 1950s. At least that was the case until 1967, when Baker had to leave for Vietnam.

Much drama comes from Baker's mind-bending, emotionally draining and physically challenging interactions with these strange aliens and his observations of their spacecraft and relationship with the US generals. If this supposedly fictitious tale is indeed based in truth, we have yet another reason to question the US government and its long-time secrecy policy. Hall's character makes a case for how our society may prepare for official ET contact.

For a glimpse into this incredible adventure, see the interview with Charles Hall by Dr Michael Salla in this issue.





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SCIENCE AND THE AKASHIC FIELD: An Integral Theory of Everything by Ervin Laszlo

Inner Traditions, USA, 2004
ISBN 1-85227-139-6 (260pp hc)
Availability: **USA**—Inner Traditions,
<http://www.InnerTraditions.com>;
Australia—Brumby Books,
<http://www.brumbybooks.com>

Many thinkers of our age have searched for a "theory of everything", but the closest contender in this scientific paradigm shift is the concept of "the informed universe" says Ervin Laszlo. It's the rediscovery of an ancient knowledge familiar to the Vedic tradition—*Akasha*, or the Akashic Field. It's been touched upon by frontier scientists who have explored hypotheses ranging from the holographic universe to quantum zero-point energy (though I'd have thought Rupert Sheldrake and his morphogenetic field theory that draws on this ancient tradition was worthy of a mention).

At the foundation of the Akashic Field, or "A-field", concept that Laszlo proposes is a "vacuum-based holofield" in which the universe is a highly integrated, connected, coherent system—"much like a living organism"—its crucial feature being that it builds on the information it has generated. Just as the ancients knew, a cosmic information field links organisms and minds in the biosphere and particles, stars and galaxies throughout the universe—and it can be accessed. Indeed, the universe contains the memory of all things that exist and have ever existed. Cosmic, eh?

Laszlo believes that this new theory is the pillar of 21st-century science and that deeper research into nature's information field is essential. That research will also have to

explore anomalies that orthodox science has ignored or been unable to analyse and measure (if this is possible at all).

What we discover will have profound personal and social impacts, and Laszlo suggests that accessing this knowledge is intrinsic to the evolution of consciousness.

THE HYPNOTIC POWER OF CROP CIRCLES

by Bert Janssen

Frontier Publishing, The Netherlands,
Adventures Unlimited Press, USA, 2004
ISBN 1-931882-34-7 (132pp tpb)
Availability: **Europe**—Frontier Publishing,
website <http://www.fsf.nl>; **USA**—
Adventures Unlimited, website
<http://www.adventuresunlimitedpress.com>;
Aust/NZ/UK—NEXUS offices

Dutch documentary filmmaker Bert Janssen has taken his captivation for the beauty and hypnotic power of crop circles a few steps further with his exploration of their external and internal geometries.

He began by reconstructing their basic patterns and found that sometimes the simplest design could be based on a ninefold geometry. He soon found that man-made features such as tractor lines, ancient barrows and sacred landmarks often helped determine the size, proportion and placement of each element in the crop formations.

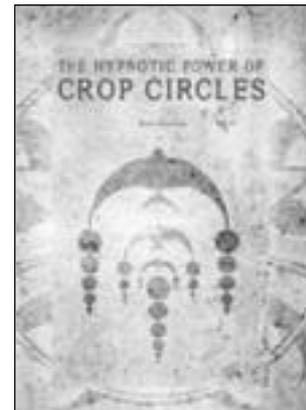
While studying designs that could *not* have been man-made, Janssen realised they were intelligently designed in such a way as to interface with human consciousness. He concluded that the creators, whoever they are, had taken into account the fact that we could only reconstruct these designs with the aid of mathematical instruments. Incredibly, he's found examples of crop formations

which actually show the geometric construction lines—just like the ones he's utilised in his reconstructions. A sevenfold geometry formation found at Tawsmead Copse near Alton Barnes, Wiltshire, on 9 August 1998 is one such example—and, yes, you can see the lines in the photograph.

Janssen provides many geometrical reconstructions of formations seen in England as well as The Netherlands and the USA, and they make for fascinating analysis. Readers are encouraged to get out paper, pencil, compass and ruler and try for themselves.

In the appendix there are examples of crop circle designs based on twofold to ninefold geometry as well as specific methods for constructing 5-, 7- and 9-fold geometries. All this is absorbing in itself, but applied to crop circles these tracings can have an entrancing effect as if one is entering new realms of consciousness.

In his narrative, Janssen covers his experiences in the field as well as his questions and personal reflections. A welcome contribution to the study of this mystery.



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THE VOYNICH MANUSCRIPT

by Gerry Kennedy and Rob Churchill

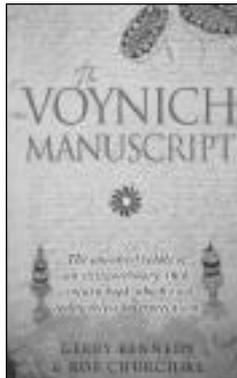
Orion Books Ltd, UK, 2004

ISBN 0-75285-996-X (276pp hc)

Availability: Orion Books Ltd, website
<http://www.orionbooks.co.uk>

Since it was "rediscovered" in an Italian monastery by antiquarian book dealer Wilfrid Voynich in 1912, the so-called Voynich Manuscript has evaded decoding by the cast of scholars and cryptologists who have studied it. Consisting of around 226 vellum pages, the manuscript contains unusual illustrations together with script under seven sections, including botanical (with drawings of 113 unidentified plants), astronomical/astrological, biological (the emphasis being on small-scale female nudes) and pharmaceutical/herbal.

London-based authors, freelance writers Gerry Kennedy and Rob Churchill, both of whom collaborated on a 2002 film documentary for the BBC on the manuscript, have done exhaustive research for this book. They delve into the history of the manu-



script, which according to a letter attached to it may have been the work of the 13th-century scientist/monk Roger Bacon. It allegedly found its way via Elizabethan magician John Dee to the Bohemian king Rudolph II in the late 1500s.

The authors also explore the characters who have been captivated by it and the techniques they used in attempting to decipher it. Many have speculated that the text was written with a cipher key, but as no one's yet managed to get a sensible translation the authors suggest the curious manuscript could have been a hoax. They outline several theories as to who may have been responsible for it, ranging from John Dee and his cunning associate Edward Kelley to Wilfrid Voynich himself.

This is an absorbing drama that takes the reader from mediaeval times through to today—with the promise of scientific analysis of the parchment and ink and at least some finality about the manuscript's date.

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY GRAIL:

The Quest for a Legend

by Andrew Collins

Virgin Books, UK, 2004

ISBN 1-85227-139-6 (260pp hc)

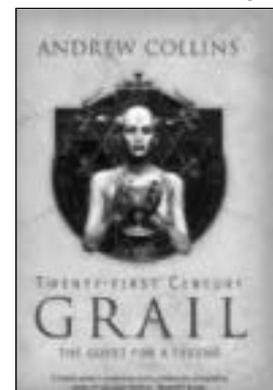
Availability: Virgin Books, website
<http://www.virgin.com/books>

This new book from Andrew Collins (*From the Ashes of Angels; Gods of Eden; Gateway to Atlantis*; see 4/01, 5/04, 7/03) is an unusual work of historical non-fiction combined with psychic questing—a technique used to discover hidden artefacts using dreams and visions. What set it off was a series of dreams in late 2001 by an associate, Richard Ward, in which the angel Bartzabel and the English occultist Aleister Crowley (who died in 1947) appeared to him in a cave that he recognised as Hastings Cave on the English Channel coast.

The imagery and personages appearing in the visions were unusual enough for Collins, his wife Sue and Richard Ward to embark on an adventure across the English countryside, looking for clues suggested during the visions and unearthing some unusual occult artefacts. And with Crowley along as a guide, their quest was guaranteed to verge on the bizarre, his seven-pointed star seal superimposed on the Kent countryside serving as one signpost along the way.

The main object of their quest concerned the so-called Marian Chalice—a small alabaster cup of Near Eastern manufacture, dated to the first century and reputed to be the vessel used by Mary Magdalene to anoint Jesus before the Crucifixion and also identified with the Holy Grail (though not necessarily with the bloodline, as other authors suggest). The story of how Collins came to acquire this cup is extraordinary, and it involves discoveries about the early years of the Christian and Gnostic traditions in England, the history of the Knights Templar, Arthurian myth, the coded works of the Renaissance painters and sacred geometry linking key sites in the landscape.

This visionary work, backed up with obscure historical detail, is a magical read.





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ACCESS DENIED – For Reasons of National Security

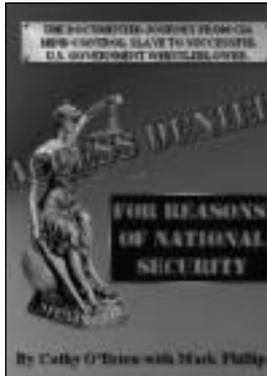
by Cathy O'Brien with Mark Phillips

Reality Marketing, USA, 2004

ISBN 0-9660165-3-X (405pp tpb)

Availability: USA—Reality Marketing, PO Box 868, Guntersville, Alabama 35976, tel 1800 656 3597 (toll free in Nth America), <http://www.AccessDeniedBook.com>

This follow-up to the 1995 *Trance Formation of America* (see review in 3/04) also requires some knowledge of US government-sanctioned experiments in mind control in order to appreciate it properly. And readers ideally should read the eye-opening first book to get up to speed on the story. To recap, Cathy O'Brien, helped by intelligence insider Mark Phillips, woke up in the early 1990s at the age of 30 to her programming as a CIA *MK-Ultra* mind controlled slave. Her daughter Kelly, also part of the plot, had to be rescued too. Cathy soon provided testimony to US Congress and courts as well as the UN Commission on Human Rights Abuses. She testified as



to the shocking nature of her abuse going back to her childhood and implicating high-level members of the government and intelligence agencies as well as the church. She claims that her duties during her time on the inside of this sick power-play included passing on and receiving secret messages between US and foreign leaders while she was programmed as a sex slave.

So how did Cathy recover from her torture and survive? This is the story of *Access Denied*, and it's also one of hope—the kind that comes from spilling the beans in the USA and many countries to open-minded people who deplore the sad state of a criminal justice system that protects the perpetrators of heinous crimes. From their tour in Australia, for instance, they concluded that Aussies are too freedom-minded to succumb to mental slavery. Well, we'll see! Cathy O'Brien's journey, however tragic, is an inspiration for all whistleblowers intent on exposing endemic corruption in the system.

THE COPYCAT EFFECT: How the Media and Popular Culture Trigger the Mayhem in Tomorrow's Headlines

by Loren Coleman, MSW

Paraview Pocket Books, USA, 2004

ISBN 0-7434-8223-9 (320pp tpb)

Availability: Pocket Books/Simon & Schuster, <http://www.simonsays.com>

The "copycat effect" is alive and well and is aided and abetted by a sensationalistic mass media, says US social researcher and prolific author Loren Coleman.

His latest book expands on the territory he covered in his 1987 book, *Suicide Clusters*. This was dedicated to UC sociologist David P. Phillips, who coined the term "Werther effect" (based on a book Goethe published in 1774 about a melancholic young man) to describe the copycat phenomenon observed in "the cultural contagion of suicidal behaviours" and in the media's witting or unwitting promotion of it, especially when "death sells" is their guiding principle. Coleman himself has done much to bring awareness of the phenomenon to academia, health and legal authorities, law enforcement agencies, suicide prevention groups and the media.

Now he examines related phenomena in terms of the copycat effect, including sniper killings, suicidal pilots crashing planes into buildings, cult murder-suicides, school shootings, music-linked suicides, celebrity death copycats, and more. Coleman says that in so many (but not all) instances, the media's sensationalistic reporting on a tragic death can cause suicidal or murderous behaviour to spread like a virus—locally, nationally and internationally. He provides many statistics to back up his argument, and they are extremely disturbing.

He comes down savagely on media complicity, but also touches on research into memes—contagious ideas that replicate like viruses, spread like infections—that may help explain how and why this phenomenon takes shape once the initial event is made public. Admittedly, some media outlets now take this copycat effect seriously and at least don't report on suicides unless there's some overriding public interest involved, but Coleman says there's still a long way to go.

He has seven recommendations for the media to follow in order to reduce the negative projections in their reporting of "news-worthy" events. These include using unprovocative words, dropping clichéd depictions, ceasing their graphic, sensationalised coverage of violent acts and providing contact details for those seeking help.

Above all, Coleman says the media should reflect more on their role in creating our increasingly violent society and "spread a little peace rather than mayhem".

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DVDs/VIDEOS

Reviewed by Duncan Roads

WARRANT FOR THE ARREST OF A RESEARCHER

A documentary by Jean-Yves Billien and Pantxo Arretz ©2003 Satya Productions (56mins, French language with English subtitles; also available as a videotape)

Distributor: **France**—Satya Productions, 2 rue des Forges, 72440 Volnay, France, telephone +33 (0)6 79 50 00 39, email arretz@wanadoo.fr

Availability: Satya Productions; or try your nearest NEXUS office

In December 1996, Loïc Le Ribault, a French geologist and forensic expert, was arrested and imprisoned in France for two months. After his release, which was subject to judicial review, he decided to go into exile. An international warrant was then issued against him, and he was arrested and remanded in custody.

His crime? Creating and prescribing his own unauthorised, but spectacularly successful, therapeutic treatment, called G5, based on organic silicon. This thoroughly researched documentary reveals for the first time the origins, history and applications of organic silicon through the exceptional career of this respected French scientist.

The film also shows how much influence the drug companies have over the medical bureaucracies of all Western nations. Here we have something that works on nearly everything, and all the drug company executives can think of is how organic silicon represents financial ruin.

MAMA/M.A.M.A.: Mothers, Medicine and Madness

A film by Nonny de la Peña for Research Films/5th Estate Productions, USA, 2004
Distributor: **USA**—Research Films, Santa Monica, California, tel 1800 201 7892 (toll free in North America), website <http://www.munchausenmovie.com>

This DVD is the provocative investigation of Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy (MSbP), a perplexing psychological disorder where a mother secretly but deliberately harms her child in order to get the sympathy and praise of others as well as the attention of the medical community.

This film—made over the course of three years and across two continents—scrutinises the scientific research surrounding the diagnosis of MSbP and, in doing so, questions the very diagnosis itself. The filmmakers document the struggles of three average families battling the charge of MSbP with various, tragic results.

As heart-rending as these stories are, the

"science" behind them is even more shocking. The filmmakers discovered in their investigations that the illnesses supposedly caused by over 100 "Munchausen mothers" were in fact the side effects of potentially toxic drugs such as cisapride and metoclopramide—which were never approved for paediatric use.

The filmmakers conducted independent medical research that showed laboratory tests should not be used as sole evidence of guilt in cases such as these. They also proved the innocence of one convicted "Munchausen mother".

The film also traces the origins of MSbP, revealing the original dubious science that has led to over 25 years of the authorities tearing children from their mothers' arms.

QUECKSILBER: The Strange Story of Dental Amalgam

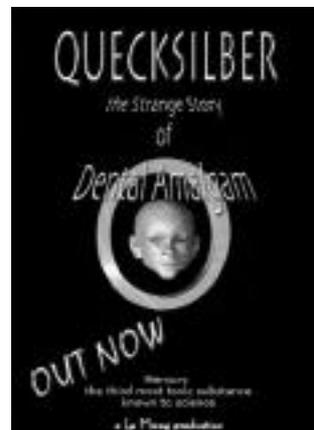
Produced by La Mmag © 2004 Robert Gammal (58mins, DVD or video)
Distributor: **Australia**—Bio Compatible Dentistry, tel +61 (0)2 9264 5270, fax +61 (0)2 9283 2230, <http://www.bcd.com.au>, <http://www.quecksilber.net>

The argument that dental amalgam is a safe and effective filling material has been challenged since the time of its introduction over 150 years ago.

It is well known that the mercury in amalgam is highly toxic and that continuous exposure to it may seriously affect health.

Dental amalgam is the greatest source of mercury in the population—more so than all other sources including seafood and vaccinations. This documentary is fully referenced and will enlighten you about the dangers of placing a hazardous waste product into children and adults.

Quecksilber (German for mercury/quick-silver) is a brilliant, informative and well-produced documentary on this important subject. Well done to biocompatible dentistry expert Dr Robert Gammal and the people who worked with him on this project.





REVIEWS

MUSIC

Reviewed by Richard Giles

SOUTH PACIFIC ISLANDS

by various artists

Putumayo, USA, 2004 (43mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—MRA, tel (07) 3849 6020; **UK**—Pinnacle Imports, tel 01689 870622; **USA**—Putumayo, tel 1888 7888 8629, <http://www.putumayo.com>

The music of the South Pacific is not widely known outside the region. From Putumayo comes a collection of sounds from these islands including New Zealand, Samoa, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Rapa Nui (Easter Island) and Tokelau. Of special interest is Telek from PNG, a group that's already made a name for itself. However, many here have hardly been heard outside their own countries. There's great music from NZ and New Caledonia, all with a strong beat flavour mixed with local traditional sounds.

IN RETROSPECT: 1980–2003

by David Parsons

Celestial Harmonies, USA 2004 (2CDs, 157mins)
Distributors: **Australia**—Planet Distribution, tel (02) 9356 4866; **USA**—Celestial Harmonies, tel (520) 326 4400, <http://www.harmonies.com>

Celestial Harmonies has a great catalogue dedicated to specialist world sounds. One of its artists, David Parsons, is one of the unrecognised greats of international music. This collection of his most outstanding compositions includes the haunting "Urartu to Ubud" from *Ngaio Gamelan* (see 6/06), "Whirling into the Light" from *Shaman* and "Varuna Ghat" from *Yatra*. He won awards for his 17-CD *Music of Islam* series in 1997 (see 5/04), and his collections of music from Bali, Cambodia and Vietnam are also superb. A must-have album.

MEDICINE WOMAN III: THE RISING

by Medwyn Goodall

New World Music, Aust, 2005 (51mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—NWM, tel (02) 9565 4522; **UK**—NWM, tel 01986 781682; **Europe**—MCC, tel +49 4102 898202; **USA**—NWM, tel (303) 415 1040, <http://www.newworldmusic.com>

Medwyn Goodall is one of the more prolific of New Age music composers, and his *Medicine Woman* series has been a phenomenal world music hit. Now along comes *Medicine Woman III*, which is not quite up to the mesmerising sound of the first effort but nevertheless I appreciate its energetic addition to the music scene. He

uses woodwinds, guitar, mandolin, pan-pipes, synthesiser and percussion. He best captures the spirit of the medicine womanhood sound on two later tracks of the CD, "Divinity" and "Temple Journey".

MASTERS OF THE SHAKUHACHI

by Hidekazu Katoh and Richard Stagg

Arc Music Prodn, UK, 2004 (54mins)
Distributor: **UK**—Arc Music, tel +44 (0)1342 328 567, website <http://www.arcmusic.co.uk>

Richard Stagg has been performing shakuhachi for 20 years, and here he's accompanied by another acclaimed player, Hidekazu Katoh, from the Japanese Pro Musica Nipponia and the Bamboo Orchestra. They play traditional pieces as well as modern compositions. All tracks are 10–12 minutes long and would satisfy the most ardent of flute enthusiasts. The third track, "Myoga" ("Sheltered by Buddha's Mercy"), is exceptional as they play around each other on one higher and one deeper shakuhachi. It's reflective of the harmonies we can achieve in a life lived in peace.

DRAGONFLY

by Stringmansassy

Stringmansassy Music, 2004 (48mins)
Distributor: **Australia**—MRA Entertainment, tel (07) 3849 6020, website <http://www.stringmansassy.com>

These two amazing Australian musicians have taken the Woodford Folk Festival in southeast Queensland by storm in the last few years. Fans say they are moved to tears by the sounds of Aaron Hopper on guitar and Kacey Patrick with her extraordinary, crystal-clear scat-style voice. To hear her sing the birds of the Amazon jungle in Sting's classic piece "Fragile" is to connect with the power of the Earth and its primal life energy. On *Dragonfly*, they perform mostly their own songs, except for the two standards "Fragile" and "Fever". Well worth every cent of the purchase price.

